

Today in class

- Announcement / check on PB and portfolio ?
- Week plan
- Schmidt on language policy

break

- Prep for debate

Primary preconditions for language policy conflict

1. Linguistic diversity
2. Language contact and competition
3. Expectation that the government should intervene in the social facts of linguistic diversity, language contact, and language competition

Common arguments for national unity

To give status to minority languages is dangerous because:

- It is divisive
- It engenders political conflict
- It threatens the stability of the nation state

Official language is important because:

- It supports the “imagined community”
- It reflects distinct national identity

Common arguments for equality

Official language is dangerous because:

- It is hegemonic—advances the interests of dominant groups at the expense of others
- It threatens ethnic identity

Multilingualism is important because:

- It doesn't privilege particular ethnolinguistic identities

Identity politics and language

Identity is:

- Constitutive and relational
- Contextual and mutable
- Ambiguous and contestable

Language is a social marker subject to misrecognition and nonrecognition

4 approaches to language policy

- Domination/exclusion: exclude subordinated groups from participation and power in public domains
- Assimilation: eliminate linguistic controversy by inducing a shift toward the dominant language in the society
- Pluralism: unity and equality through mutual respect for diversity
- Confederation: divvy up the territory so each group is dominant somewhere

Debate roles

Team in support:

- Opening argument (1)
- Response to open questions (6)
- Closing statement (1)

Neutral:

- Audience: pose questions
- Timer (1)
- Moderator (1)

Team in opposition:

- Opening argument (1)
- Response to open questions (6)
- Closing statement (1)

Debate structure

- Opening arguments
 - support then opposition
 - 5-7 minutes each side
- Open questioning
 - opposition then support
 - 20 minutes each side (threes take questions for 10 minutes each)
- Closing statements
 - support then opposition
 - 3 minutes each side

Debate prep

Teams in support and opposition:

- draft opening argument
- prep potential question responses
- draft closing statement

Audience and timer:

- generate questions
- organize questions by likely points on each side
- assign questions
- make time cards

for Wednesday

- Review reading
- Post responses to microessays to the discussion board by 9pm Tuesday
- Read the discussion board before class
- Prep for debate

‘hegemony’

A concept derived from the work of Antonio Gramsci suggesting that power is achieved by dominant groups through successful struggles to persuade the subordinate groups ideologically that arrangements are in their interest.